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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,148,069 issued to Ekstrom et al. on November 14, 2004.

Applicants have avoided this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Ekstrom does not teach applicants' independent claim 1 limitation, as amended, that now recites, "a control component that comprises an interface usable by an administrator to designate one or more tones and one or more announcements that are playable in a communication session as interruptible."

Applicants agree that Ekstrom teaches that an announcement may be specified as interruptible or uninterruptible. However, contrary to applicants' claim 1, Ekstrom does not teach that tones may be designated as interruptible. Instead, Ekstrom teaches that "for an interruptible announcement, the announcement will terminate when a voice or a dual tone multiple frequency (DTMF) tone is detected, and any additional announcements specified by the same message or instruction will not be played", as stated in column 5 lines 60-65. In other words, Ekstrom teaches that a tone may be used to terminate announcements, however the tone itself is not interruptible as required by applicants' claim 1.

Thus, the clear teaching of Ekstrom is that a control component that comprises an interface is not usable by an administrator to designate one or more tones and one or more announcements that are playable in a communication session as interruptible.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that Ekstrom does not describe each and every element of claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is not anticipated by Ekstrom. Since claims 2-13 depend from allowable claim 1, these claims are also allowable over Ekstrom.

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Independent claims 14 and 20 each have a limitation similar to that of independent claim 1, which was shown is not taught by Ekstrom. For example, claim 14 recites, "interfacing an administrator with a configuration database to allow the administrator to designate in the configuration database one or more tones and one or more announcements that are playable in a communication session as interruptible", and claim 20 recites, "means in the one or more media for interfacing an administrator with a configuration database to allow the administrator to designate in the configuration database one or more tones and one or more announcements that are playable in a communication session as interruptible". Ekstrom does not teach these limitations for the above-mentioned reasons. Therefore, claims 14 and 20 are likewise allowable over Ekstrom. Since claims 15-19 depend from claim 14, these dependent claims are also allowable over Ekstrom.

Claim Amendments

Claims 7-8, 13-15, and 20 were amended to change the term "and/or" to "and". Also, claim 15 was amended to add the terms "and" and "further".


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Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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